

The next WISSH meeting is Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at 3:30 p.m.

Town of Wenham
Wenham Issues of Social Service Housing
Meeting of Tuesday, May 1, 2007 ~ 3:30 PM
Recreation Building, School Street

Present: Susan Harnisch, Chair; Tom Tanous; Don Killam; Pat Purdy; Don Luxton; Susan Carp; Jack Hauck; Cal Perkins; Ann Mulry- Shaw; Sue Bannon; Margaret Scoglio;
Also Present: Catherine Tinsley, Secretary; Peter Hersee, Selectmen
Not Present:

Abbreviations used:

WISSH - Wenham Issues of Social Service Housing

Public information provided:

Agenda

Ms. Harnisch called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Luxton made a motion to accept the WISSH minutes of March 6, 2007 as written. Ms. Purdy seconded.

Voting in favor: Susan Harnisch, Chair; Margaret Scoglio; Tom Tanous; Don Killam; Pat Purdy;

Don Luxton; Susan Carp

Opposed: None

Abstained: Mr. Hersee

MOTION CARRIED

Susan Harnisch - WISSH Coordinator

Ms. Harnisch reported the following:

- WISSH Account balance: \$19,153.74
- Two requests for assistance:
 - Case No 213-2007 for \$132.50 – approved for Excise tax payment
 - Case No. 214-2007 for \$500 - approved for Electric bill payment
 - Case No. 215 was previously approved at the March meeting for \$500 was submitted for heating oil payment
- Ms Harnisch noted that there was a delay with a National Grid posting payments when the Town issued a single check for multiple accounts; the Town Accountant will send separate checks for each payment payable to National Grid to post to individual accounts.
- Although Selectmen Tanous is not running for re-election, he will remain on the WISSH Committee as a member. Selectman Hersee will serve as liaison to the WISSH Committee.
- Ms. Shaw notified the chair that she would not be present at this meeting. Ms Shaw is running for a seat on the Wenham Housing Authority Board.

As previously requested Mr. Tanous responded to the Town's donation to Senior Care donation drawn from the WISSH account saying that Senior Care sent a letter to the Town Administrator who approved the donation; it was paid from the WISSH account balance. Next year the donation will be flagged to be approved by the WISSH Committee.

Twenty five hundred dollars was transferred from the Trust Funds to the WISSH Balance for the donation. It was noted that the balance reported by the Chair may not be updated.

Ms Harnisch is resigning from the North Shore Home Consortium. A Liaison from Wenham is needed. The group meets the last Wednesday of each month at 10 am in Peabody. Ms. Purdy will attend the April meeting with Ms. Harnisch

Mr. Hersee gave a brief update regarding affordable housing saying that Windover Construction, who is building senior housing in Wenham, has an obligation to provide affordable housing in town. Windover is willing to buy the Dearborn property, a 13-14 acre parcel of land currently owned by National Grid, for the town. This may allow three to four houses to be built by Houses for Habitat. Possible issues that need to be resolved were noted. Mr. Tanous went on to explain the process and concerns with this property adding that this will be a timely process.

The Committee requested the list of addresses of affordable housing in Wenham.

The Executive Director of the Community Center, Melissa Elmer, is working with various town groups, boards, and committees to identify what each one is doing to avoid duplicate services and to possibly collaborate with each other.

Mr. Hauck said that the COA has been working with the Community House on trips and social events with the Community Center, adding that space has been offered to the COA at no charge.

Mr. Hauck announced that the history group meets the last Thursday of the month. This month the discussion is about cemeteries in Wenham.

4:15 pm – Mr. Luxton made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.